

Minutes

Talbot County Board of Elections
215 Bay Street
Easton, MD 21601
July 13, 2022

Attendance

Board Members Present

Joseph Secrist, President	(R)
Walter Black.	(D)
Richard Bulman	(R)
Wadella Thomas	(R)
Susan MacKinnon	(D)

Staff

Crystal McGinn, Talbot County Election Director
Tammy Stafford
Fred Gleockler

Board Attorney

Lyndsey Ryan

The monthly meeting of the Talbot County Board of Elections was held July 13, 2022 in the Board of Elections Warehouse located at 28712 Glebe Road, Easton, Maryland. Mr. Secrist called the meeting to order at 9:40 AM. Mr. Secrist noted that a quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Secrist asked if the Board had any corrections or additions to the minutes of the meeting of June 15, 2022, copies of which had been forwarded to the Board Members in advance of the meeting. Mr. Bulman moved approval of the minutes as presented. Mr. Black seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Additions to the Agenda

In advance of this meeting, Ms. McGinn emailed to each Board Member material for the meeting, including an agenda which had been posted on the Board web site. Printed materials for the meeting were also provided at the board table for each Board Member at this meeting. Mr. Secrist asked if there were any changes to the agenda. He asked that the agenda include discussion on the Facility for Election Office. During discussion of the agenda Board Members asked Ms. McGinn to prepare future draft agendas in the form used by previous Election Directors, including the directions to

public attendees. Mr. Black moved that the agenda be approved with the addition suggested by Mr. Secrist. Ms. Thomas seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Election Director's Report

Ms. McGinn provided the Board with a written report on activities since the last Board Meeting. A copy of her report is attached to these minutes. She noted that Talbot County has the highest Early Voting participation of any jurisdiction, now at 6.87%.

The Election Director made the Board aware of a letter received from the Talbot County Republican Central Committee. In discussing the issue raised by the Republican Central Committee regarding the Ballot Marking Devices and a similar issue reported in the Washington Post in Montgomery County, Ms. McGinn contacted the staff at the State Board. Ms. Ryan has also spoken with State Board staff. She asked that the Board include in its closed session legal advice regarding this issue.

Board Attorney's Report

Ms. Ryan participated in a conference call with other Election Board attorneys and summarized those discussions. She offered to circulate minutes of that call to Board Members.

Old Business

a. Facility for Election Office

Ms. McGinn provided the Board with a written response from County Manager Clay Stamp regarding the Board's space request to understand the basis for the amount included in the proposed county budget. She advised that the County Council will be considering approval of the county budget at its meeting later in the day. She understands that the county has no specific location in mind for the Board. Mr. Secrist spoke with Mr. Stamp regarding our view that the funds included in the proposed budget are inadequate for the space needed by the Board. In discussions with Mr. Secrist, Mr. Stamp noted that additional funds could be considered at a later date when needed.

b. Budget FY22

Ms. McGinn provided the Board with a report on expenditures for the year ending June 30, 2022. There are likely more expenses that have not yet been accounted for.

c. Invoices

Ms. McGinn provided copies of invoices received since the last regular meeting.

d. List of Election Judges

At its last meeting, the Board authorized Ms. McGinn to appoint additional Election Judges, if needed, and to report the final list of Election Judges for action by the Board at the next meeting. Ms. McGill provided the Board with 9 additional Election Judges.

Mr. Bulman moved that the agenda be amended to add the Approval of Election Judges. Mr. Black seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Ms. McKinnon moved approval of the 9 additional Election Judges. Ms. Thomas seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

During the discussion, Ms. McKinnon asked that the Board take up the issue of pay for Election Judges at its next meeting. Mr. Black asked that we also consider recognition of the Election Judges in addition of pay.

New Business

a. Board of Canvassers

Ms. McGinn asked if the Board Members wished to consider the election of Officers for the Board of Canvassers. It was the sense of the Board Members to take that up at the first meeting of the Board of Canvassers.

b. Polling Place Evaluations

Ms. McGinn provided Board Members with copies of a memorandum from State Board of Elections Administrator Linda Lamone regarding the procedure for conducting Polling Place Evaluations, including the Early Voting site. Mr. Secrist advised Ms. McGinn our evaluations have always been conducted by Board Members. Without objection, he suggested the Board will continue that practice. The Board Members discussed polling place assignments. Ms. McGinn agreed to email the agreed upon assignments to the Board. She also agreed to provide each Board Member with evaluation forms to be used at each polling place.

Confirmation of next meeting

Mr. Secrist noted that the Board of Canvassers will meet on July 21, 2022 at 10:00 AM and the next regular meeting of the Board of Elections will be at 9:30 AM on August 17, 2022.

Closed Session

Mr. Black moved that the Board go into closed session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters that affect one or more specific individuals as permitted under General Provisions Art. 3-305(b) (1) and to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter as permitted under General Provisions Art. 3-305(b) (7). Ms. Thomas seconded the motion. It passed unanimously. Whereupon the Board went into closed session at 11:23 AM. Present at this session were Board Members Mr. Secrist, Mr. Black, Ms. Thomas, Ms. MacKinnon and Mr. Bulman. Election Director Crystal McGinn, Board Attorney Lyndsey Ryan and staff members Tammy Stafford and Fred Gleockler were also present.

During the second portion of the closed session, Ms. McGinn, Ms. Stafford and Mr. Gleockler departed.

At 12:23 PM. the Board returned to open session. President Secrist reported that the Board received legal guidance regarding the issue raised by the Republican Central Committee. The Board prepared the Mid Cycle Performance Rating for the Election Director and approved the minutes of the Closed Meeting of June 15, 2022.

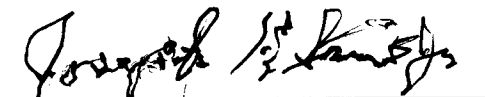
Republican Central Committee Request

The Board discussed the request received from the Republican Central Committee and, based on advice received from the Board Attorney, Mr. Black moved that the Board confirm that it does not have authority to comply with the Committee's request and authorized Ms. Ryan to respond to the Committee accordingly on its behalf. Ms. Thomas seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Adjournment

Mr. Black moved adjournment of the meeting. Ms. Thomas seconded the motion. It passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 12:29 PM.

Attested,



Joseph H. Secrist, Jr., President

Respectfully submitted,



Richard B. Bulman, Secretary